Simon Kirby is a professor of language evolution at the University of Edinburgh and elected fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is head of the Centre for Language Evolution, whose focus is the cultural evolution of human behavior and its impact on the biological evolution of our species. Kirby's group combines computational simulation and laboratory experiments, and has pioneered a framework known as Iterated Learning. In addition to his scientific output, Kirby collaborates with sculptors and musicians to create interactive art installations exploring issues of communication and cultural evolution in the online world. His most well known work is the BAFTA-winning Cybraphon, now part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of Scotland.

Carmel O'Shannessy is an associate professor of linguistics at the University of Michigan. She completed her Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Sydney (Australia) and the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (The Netherlands) in 2007. Within the areas of language contact, endangered languages and language acquisition, O'Shannessy's research focuses on the genesis and development of Light Warlpiri, a newly emerged mixed language in north Australia, and documentation of children's bilingual acquisition of Light Warlpiri and Warlpiri. She has been involved with languages in remote Indigenous communities in Australia since 1996, in the areas of bilingual education and her current research.

Ann Senghas is a professor of psychology at Barnard College, and for the present academic year she is a Mary I. Bunting Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Her research focuses on the emergence of structure in a new sign language created by deaf children in Nicaragua over the past four decades. Dr. Senghas earned her Ph.D. in brain and cognitive sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1995. She held postdoctoral research positions at the University of Rochester and the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands. Dr. Senghas's research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2002.

Mark Aronoff is a Trustees Distinguished Professor of Linguistics at Stony Brook University. His major academic interests have been linguistic morphology, writing systems, undergraduate education, and sign language. His research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health, as well as foreign and non-governmental agencies. Aronoff is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). He has served as president of the LSA and editor of its journal, *Language*. For over a decade, he has worked with Irit Meir, Carol Padden, and Wendy Sandler on Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language.

David M. Perlmutter is a professor emeritus of linguistics at UC San Diego. His research on linguistic theory addresses the question of how human languages differ and the ways they are alike. He has worked extensively on the syntax of a wide variety of languages and on the phonology and morphology of American Sign Language. Perlmutter has served as president of the Linguistic Society of America and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Linguistic Society of America.
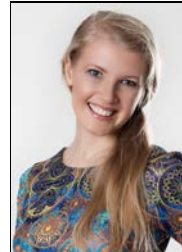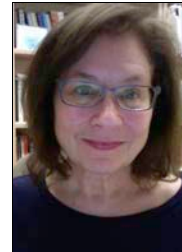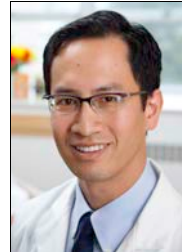
Ray Jackendoff is a Seth Merrin Professor of Philosophy and co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University. He is known for pioneering research on semantics and syntax, on the architecture of the language faculty and its place in the mind, and on music cognition. Jackendoff was awarded the Jean Nicod Prize in Cognitive Philosophy in 2003 and the David Rumelhart Prize in Theoretical Cognitive Science in 2014. He has been President of the Linguistic Society of America and of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. The most recent of his fourteen books is *A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning* (Oxford University Press 2012).

Evelina Fedorenko is an assistant professor in the psychiatry department at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She received an A.B. in psychology/linguistics from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in cognitive science from MIT in 2007. She stayed at MIT as a postdoc and later a research scientist, funded by a K99/R00 award from NICHD. In 2013, Fedorenko accepted a faculty position at the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at MGH. Her research focuses on the language system, including its internal architecture, and its relationship with other cognitive systems. She uses behavioral, fMRI, and genotyping methods in healthy adults and individuals with brain disorders, as well as intracranial recordings from epilepsy patients.

Rachel Mayberry is a professor in the Department of Linguistics at UC San Diego where she studies language acquisition and processing from a multi-modal and lifespan perspective. She directs the Laboratory for Multi-Modal Language Development, currently funded by the NIH. Mayberry's research encompasses signed, spoken, and written language as well as co-verbal gesture in order to understand how various aspects of language are developed by children and adolescents and processed by adults both behaviorally and neurolinguistically. She uses sign language acquisition by individuals born deaf as a means to model the critical period for language.

Edward Chang is a neurosurgeon at UC San Francisco specializing in the treatment of intractable epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia, and brain tumors. His scientific research focuses upon the brain mechanisms for human speech, movement, and cognition. Chang co-directs the Center for Neural Engineering & Prostheses at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco, which brings together engineering, neuroscience, neurology and neurosurgery to develop state-of-the-art biomedical devices to restore function for patients with neurological disabilities.